

House Bill 27
Establish Wireless Enhanced 9-1-1 System
Informational Testimony by Jeff Brandt, Deputy CIO,
Information Technology Services Division (ITSD)
Department of Administration
444-3988

Before the
Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee
April 13, 2007

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for the record my name is Jeff Brandt. I am the Deputy Chief Information Officer of the Information Technology Services Division (ITSD), within the Department of Administration. The Statewide 9-1-1 Program is administered by the Department. I would like to introduce Ms. Becky Berger, the manager of the Statewide 9-1-1 Program.

All other 9-1-1 legislation is likely dead. HB33 was tabled in House Appropriations. An initiative contained in HB830 was removed by Senate Finance & Claims. This bill is the remaining opportunity to address the funding challenges 9-1-1 dispatch centers face as they upgrade to wireless enhanced 9-1-1 and provide cost recovery for the wireless companies who incur costs in upgrading their systems.

Last session this Committee considered HB775, a bill that would have also provided cost recovery for wireless enhanced 9-1-1. The Department opposed that legislation because of policy and technical defects in the bill. HB775 failed. Subsequently, HJ45 requested an interim study to determine the options and funding mechanisms for deployment of a statewide wireless enhanced 9-1-1 emergency telephone system. The joint resolution passed; however the resolution did not receive sufficient votes to entitle it to be addressed by an interim committee. Subsequent to the vote on interim committees, the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee expressed an interest in the issue of 9-1-1 cost recovery. The Interim Committee asked to be kept appraised of the efforts of a working-group of the 9-1-1 Advisory Council that was drafting a bill. ITSD provided administrative support to the task force. The results of that working-group is the legislation you have before you today.

Our office (Statewide 9-1-1 Program) would adopt any Administrative Rules (ARM) required by the legislation, make the quarterly distributions of the funds to the 9-1-1 jurisdictions, and reimburse wireless carriers for allowable costs. The department's costs for carrying out these responsibilities are reflected in the Fiscal Note.

The original 9-1-1 statute allowed reimbursement for costs incurred for the modification of central office switching and trunking equipment for emergency telephone service. Telephone companies were eligible for this cost recovery when basic 9-1-1 was originally deployed.

Today the telephone companies bill the 9-1-1 dispatch centers for their one time and monthly and costs the same as they bill you for your home or business telephone services. This legislation provides a similar cost recovery mechanism for wireless carriers.

I am available to answer any questions.

Thank you.